THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): It cannot be discussed here immediately. Please sit down.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): You can give a direction that this can be withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): No direction.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Then I am very sorry.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Mr. Baby:

REFERENCE TO THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON THE PEOPLE OF THANKAMANI IN KERALA

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for permitting me to make a special mention on an urgent matter public importance. Just now, some of our hon. friends have made special mentions on various atrocities committed by the Government. One hon. Member mentioned atrocities committed by the Government on terminology. Before that another hon. Member mentioned about an economic atrocity committed on the people of our country. Earlier to that one more hon. Member mentioned about the disgraceful practice of *sati* which continues in our country even today. While associating myself with these subjects, with great agony and sorrow I am constrained to mention the incidents that occurred on the midnight of October 22 in the Thankamani village; Idukki district of Kerala. According to the reports available today, around 40 women of different age groups, some girls of 12, 13 and 14, young women and even middle-aged women were brutally molested and raped by 400 or even more policemen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, Shame.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Sir, all newspapers of Kerala irrespective of their political leanings have condemned these atrocities in their editorials. These editorials openly demanded from the Government to come forward and take stringent action against the culprits.

Sir, I have with me one of the most prestigious dailies in our country, namely, "The Hindu" which is published from Madras. In yesterday's "Hindu" an item under caption "An avalanche of police excesses" in Kerala appeared. This itself proves the gravity of the situation. Before narrating a few incidents which have been reported in this leading daily newspaper, I would preface it with a statement made by one of the leading poetess in Kerala Miss Sugatha Kumari. After visiting the place, this leading poetess who does not have any political affinity or political thinking says, I quote:

> "The tears of women will burn those who did this into ashes."

This is what she said according to the "Hindu" newspaper. The incident started with a most trival issue, when two students were not taken to the destination by a private bus. Those students protested. Then the crew members have beaten those students and they were handed over to the police. According to the "Hindu" newspaper even the policemen have beaten them very badly. Then the villagers protested. They demanded that the crew members should apologise before the students. But what the police did was that they collected more strength and attacked the village during the day time. Then some people threw stones and I am reporting as things had happened. Some of them threw stones. This is all that happened but 400—500 armed police men, they collected and attacked the village and here I would like to quote the 'Hindu'.

> "Responsible people, including the bishop of Kothamangalam who visited the area the next day, said that what happened during that night could never be tolerated by a civilised society. The police went berserk, they pillaged the village like a marauding army. Women were criminally assaulted, children beaten up, shops and houses looted and the unfortunate men who stayed

back dragged out and subjected to the worst kind of torture. The police operation lasted till 3 a.m."

Earlier, in the police attack, one man aged 60 was shot dead. Another man, who had only leg, his other leg was amputated sometime back, his leg will have to be amputated due to the bullet injury. Sir, this incident is not an isolated incident in Kerala. That is the most important thing. The very heading of the Hindu Paper is 'An avalanche of police excesses' which itself expalins that for some time now, police terror is being let loose by the State Government. Had the State Government been serious to contain these police atrocities these things would not have happened and to the shame of all the civilised people. I am pained to say that the Chief Minister of Kerala, in the State Assembly said that there was no such atrocity and no woman was raped? This is what the State Chief Minister said and some weeks later, blind students were badly beaten in Alwaye in the very same Hindu report, it is mentioned. Six blind students with serious injuries have to be admitted to the hospital. Again what did the Ministers say in the Assembly? They said, there was no lathi-charge. Then the issue was taken to the High Court and the High Court Judge had to pass strictures on the State Government and I hope that the Home Ministry and the Central Government will inquire about about these things. In another incident in Trivandrum, one father and a son, both of them were taken to police lock-up in Nemom. The very same Hindu has reported this also. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Law and order is completely broken. He is stating the facts.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I am quoting only from the HINDU.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please don't quote. Say what you have to say. You have already taken more time.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: The police is supposed to maintain law and order. Instead of doing that, they are behaving like goondas.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P KAUSHIK): Please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATERJEE (West Bengal): Apart from all that, we have introduced several bills on questions of women and we are all serious about this matter and in that context, if such a thing has happened, let him, therefore, be allowed to complete. (*Interruption*)

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Sir, 42 women were molested by the police.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please sit down.

SHRI M. A. BABY: On the other hand, father and a son, they were taken to police lock-up (*Interruption*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Mr. Baby, any number of examples will not do. Say, what you have to say.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: We demand that a parliamentary delegation, including women Members of this House, should be sent to this particular village to get a report on this incident. (*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister, Mr. Jacob, is there. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*) The proper procedure is to be followed. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): The Government of Kerala is competent to handle the situation. It is a State subject. The matter is being enquired into by a sitting judge of the High Court. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Please conclude, Mr. Baby. No more examples.

SHRI M. A. BABY: A sather and son were stripped and beaten up in the lock-up. Such uncivilized, barbaric atrocities are taking place in Kerala. So I reiterate: let there be a parliamentary committee led by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. M. M. Jacob and consisting of Mrs. Kanak Mukherjee, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi, Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury and other women Members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, to go into this matter. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Dr. G. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER (Orissa):*

SHRI K. MOHANAN:*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh):*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Nothing is going on record. Please take your seats. Yes, Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala):

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): You are not supposed to talk among yourselves. Unless you sit down. Nothing can be done. Decorum is to be maintained. (*Interruptions*) There are certain rules and regulations and procedure in the House. I hope you will help me in maintaining them. (*Interruptions*) Rules and regulations are there, and whatever you have to say, you have to say in consonance with them. Please abide by them. Let the House go on. Don't talk among yourselves or start shouting anything you like. Now, Dr. Vijaya Mohan Reddy.

*Not recorded.

REFERENCE TO THE IRREGULARITY IN THE PRODUCTION OF CARBON-DIOXIDE GAS BY RASHTRIYA CHEMICAL & FERTILIZERS, BOMBAY AND THE NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A BOTTLING PLANT.

AND

MISMANAGEMENT AND CORRUPTION IN VIZAG SHIPYARD AND OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Government that the Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), Bombay, a pubilc sector company, has been giving the entire monopoly production of carbondioxide gas from its ammonia plant by a separate pipeline to Bombay Carbondioxide Company (BCDC), a private company, which has got its bottling plant in a plot adjacent to the RCF Complex. This has been going on since 1967. It was getting a meagre Rs. 300 per tonne which was later revised to Rs. 1000 per tonne. The only work done by BCDC is to bottle this and store it in cylinders in a factory in Trombay. The consumer price for this carbondioxide gas used for aerated water by soft drink manufacturers in Trombay. The consumer price more than five times charged by the RCF. The Managing Director in the beginning entered into an agreement with BCDC purely in private negotiations and not through public tenders. Thus this is a case of favouritism, nepotism and corruption. This agreement is renewed everytime and is now due to expire. I would request the honourable Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers to order construction of a bottling plant immediately so that RCF can enter the market through its Sales Division when the agreement expires, and earn profit which at present is going into the coffers of a private company. I would also request the honourable Minister to order an in-